<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system including a dedicated computer having a computer processor, said method comprising:

a scanning step to transmit a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to the computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses;

a processing step to process the plurality of digital images by the computer processor and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a record image, wherein the processing step includes:

displaying a user interface that allows a user to select images from the plurality of digital images;

displaying a user interface that allows the user to adjust the selected images; and

combining the adjusted images into the record image; and

a writing step to transmit the record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder for recording onto a medium, wherein the second

data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses;

wherein the scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the writing step, to transmit a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order over the first data path, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

2.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the processing step is repeated to process the new plurality of digital images and to combine the processed new plurality of digital images into a new record image.

3.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 2, wherein the writing step is repeated to transmit the new record image to a new medium by the image-recorder, wherein the writing step for the new medium image is initiated after completion of the writing step for the previous record image.

4.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 3, wherein each record image is stored in an image-queue prior to being transmitted to each respective medium by the writing step.

5.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 4, wherein the writing step includes the step of obtaining, from image-queue, the record image to be transmitted to the medium.

6.   (Original)   A method according to claim 4, wherein the image-queue is represented by an image-queue file.

7.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of generating a print index file ~~containing~~ including a thumbnail representation of each of the ~~plurality of digital~~ adjusted images and sending the print index file to a printer to print a corresponding print index.

8.   (Original)   A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of generating a print index file includes sending the print index file to a print queue and wherein the step of sending the print index file to the printer includes retrieving a next print index file from the print queue.

9.   (Original)   A method according to claim 8, wherein the print queue is represented by a print queue file.

10.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 7, wherein the print index file is sent to the printer regardless of whether the record image corresponding

to the plurality of digital images represented in the print index file has been transmitted to the medium in the writing step.

11.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the writing step includes generating a write status indicator which is used to indicate a success in the event that the record image is successfully written to the medium, and which is used to indicate an error in the event that the record image is not successfully written to the medium.

12.   (Original)   A method according to claim 11, wherein the writing step is not repeated for a new record image if the write status indicator indicates an error.

13.   (Original)   A method according to claim 11, wherein the writing step is repeated for the same record image if the write status indicator indicates an error.

14.   (Original)   A method according to claim 11, wherein the record image is compared to the medium at the end of the writing step to determine if the record image is successfully written to the medium.

15.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the first high-speed image data interface bus is a SCSI interface and the second high-speed image data interface bus is an IDE interface.

16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein the adjustment includes cropping.

18.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein the adjustment includes rotating.

19.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein the adjustment includes a contrast adjustment.

20.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein the adjustment includes a sharpness adjustment.

21.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein the adjustment includes a color adjustment.

22.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein the adjustment includes image editing.

23.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim [[16]] 1, wherein a thumbnail representation of each of the ~~plurality of~~ selected digital images is displayed on a monitor connected to the computer, and wherein each ~~digital~~ selected image is adjusted by a pointing device connected to the computer.

24.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the scanning step and processing step are performed in a second computer which is connected to the dedicated computer via a network, and the writing step is performed in the dedicated computer.

25.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein a second computer is connected to the dedicated computer, and wherein the scanning step and the processing step are performed in the dedicated computer and the writing step is performed in the second computer.

26.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a CD-ROM.

27.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a DVD.

28.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a digital tape.

29.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a diskette.

30.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a digital mini-disc.

31.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a memory card.

32.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a memory chip.

33.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the medium is a memory storage device.

34.   (Currently Amended)   A method for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system including a dedicated computer having a computer processor, said method comprising:

a scanning step to transmit a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to the computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses;

a processing step to process the plurality of digital images by the computer processor and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a record image, wherein the processing step includes:

displaying a user interface that allows a user to select images from the plurality of digital images;

displaying a user interface that allows the user to adjust the selected images; and

combining the adjusted images into the record image; and

a writing step to transmit the record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder for recording onto a medium, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and the record image being passed from the dedicated computer to the image-recorder at a constant rate;

wherein the scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the writing step, to transmit a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order over the first data path, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

35.   (Currently Amended)   A method for authoring a plurality of digital image CD-ROMs, each digital image CD-ROM corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image CD-ROM authoring system including a dedicated computer having a computer processor, said method comprising:

a scanning step to transmit a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to the computer processor,

wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses;

an adjusting step to adjust each of the plurality of digital images which were scanned in from the scanner, wherein the adjusting step includes:

displaying a user interface that allows a user to select images from the plurality of digital images; and

displaying a user interface that allows the user to adjust the selected images;

a generating step to generate a print index file ~~containing~~ including a thumbnail representation of each of the adjusted ~~plurality of digital~~ images, the print index file for printing by a printer;

a processing step to process the plurality of digital images and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a CD-ROM image, wherein the processing step includes combining the adjusted images into the record image; and

a CD-writing step to transmit the CD-ROM image over a second data path from the computer processor to a CD-recorder for recording onto a CD-ROM, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses;

wherein the scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the CD-writing step, to transmit a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order over the first data path, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over

separate paths, the processing step is repeated to process the new plurality of digital images and to combine the processed new plurality of digital images into a new CD-ROM image, and the CD-writing step is repeated to transmit the new CD-ROM image to a new CD-ROM placed in the CD-recorder after completion of the CD-writing step for the previous CD-ROM image.

36. (Previously Presented) A dedicated computer for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system comprised of the dedicated computer having a computer processor, a scanner connected to the computer processor by a first data path including one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and an image-recorder connected to the computer processor by a second data path including one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, comprising: a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of claims 1 to 35; and a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

37. (Previously Presented) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system comprised of a dedicated computer having a computer processor, a scanner connected to the computer processor by a

first data path including one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and an image-recorder connected to the computer processor by a second data path including one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of claims 1 to 35.

38.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system comprised of a dedicated computer having a computer processor, a scanner connected to the computer processor by a first data path including one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and an image-recorder connected to the computer processor by a second data path including one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of claims 1 to 35.